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Indiana Main Street Awards announced at state conference

INDIANAPOLIS—Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today announced the winners of the Indiana Main Street 2004 Downtown Revitalization Awards, which honor achievements in downtown revitalization and development.

"These awards recognize the effort, and creative approaches that make our cities and towns the best they can be," said Davis, who serves as the director of the Indiana Department of Commerce, which oversees the Main Street program. "They honor the hard work of our partners who are dedicated to improving the urban centers, downtowns and hearts of our communities."

For the first time, Indiana Main Street collaborated with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, a part of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, to host this year's conference.

The first joint meeting of the Cornelius O'Brien Conference on Historic Preservation and Indiana Main Street featured presentations by local, regional and national experts on various aspects of historic preservation, archaeology and Main Street issues.

Nine awards for downtown revitalization were presented at the conference for Indiana Main Street, the 18th annual event, which was held Oct. 29 in historic downtown Madison. The 2004 winners are:

- **Adaptive Reuse Project:** *Mike Flint, Madison*. This award was given for the restoration of a former furniture and hardware store in Madison's historic commercial district. Flint used private funding to transform the already existing structure into luxury apartments housing 12 separate units and one retail space—the Madison Coffee and Tea Company.
- **Board Member of the Year:** *Steve Curtis, Lafayette Main Street*. A long-time and effective advocate for downtown Lafayette, Steve Curtis has served on the board of directors for the Downtown Business Center for more than 12 years. Curtis has overseen Indiana's oldest and most successful farmer's market, and has further increased its success. He recently led efforts for a permanent memorial in the farmer's market area

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dedicated to Joe Rumpza, one of the market's most beloved vendors. Curtis has given tirelessly over the years to the downtown, his community as a whole and the Downtown Business Center.

- Design of Downtown Public Improvements: *Highland*. The community of Highland, with the support from various community organizations, volunteers, and a grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce, developed and implemented a strategic plan for downtown improvement. These improvements included the construction of a \$4 million streetscape, instillation of decorative bump-outs, planters, shrubs, flowers, trees and decorative lighting. New signage was also added to the downtown area. These improvements culminated with the addition of 12 new businesses, and the remodeling of 10 businesses currently residing in downtown Highland.
- Downtown Special Event: *Evansville*. Downtown Evansville hosted its second downtown loft tour, and attracted over 300 people to tour potential loft space in 10 downtown buildings. Additionally, a reception was held prior to the tour for the announcement of the city's new loft incentive program, and was attended by over 60 developers, bankers, real estate agents and property owners.
- Historic Rehabilitation Project: *Crawfordsville*. As one of the original founders of the Downtown Revitalization Commission, Brad Hurt undertook a complete restoration of an Italianate building constructed in 1895, beginning with the façade, and including the street level and upper floor spaces.
- Innovation Award: *Madison*. "Shop and Dine for Charity," a new semi-annual event organized by the local Main Street organization, collects donations from local participating businesses for charity support, while simultaneously promoting downtown commerce.
- Main Street Business of the Year: *Birdhouse Wild Bird and Nature Shop, Madison, owned by Kelly and David Misamore*. Started in 1992, this family-owned business has been involved with various philanthropic groups, and continues to be community and environmentally active.
- Public-Private Partnership in Downtown Revitalization: *Jeffersonville*. The Front Porch Project, an initiative developed by the local Main Street organization, is a home-repair grant program designed to improve the look and livability of the downtown neighborhoods.
- Staff Member of the Year: *Nick Cortolillo, New Albany*. Throughout his seven-year tenure as executive director of the local Main Street

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organization, Cortolillo has provided outstanding services in economic development and business recruitment. He was instrumental in balancing the budget for the White House Business Center after it began as a small business incubator.

The Indiana Main Street program, established in 1986, provides Indiana's communities with technical assistance in downtown revitalization, focusing on economic redevelopment within the context of historic preservation. It is the largest program of its kind in the country, with more than 160 cities and towns participating.

Local Main Street programs may nominate communities, organizations or individuals for awards. The Indiana Main Street Council chooses the winners.

Indiana Main Street operates under the direction of the Indiana Department of Commerce and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center. For more information on this program, contact the Indiana Main Street Division at 317.232.8912 or visit the Commerce Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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